

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-1012

Fourth Post Office of Solomons Island'

25 Charles Street

Solomons, Calvert County

ca. 1900

Private

The original portion of the wood-frame building at 25 Charles Street was constructed circa 1900 as Solomons Island's fourth post office. Located on property associated with the Thomas Moore shipyard, the one-and-a-half-story post office was the first purpose-built post office facility erected in Solomons Island and provided mailboxes for rent on site. The two-bay-wide building, which had a one-story porch, was faced on the triangular intersection of Patuxent Avenue and Charles Street. In 1913, with the reconfiguration of the roads, the building was relocated to the south side of the property, with the façade oriented to Patuxent Avenue. The building was enlarged the following year to accommodate the growth of Solomons Island in the second decade of the twentieth century. It continued to serve as the primary post office for Solomons Island until 1958, following the retirement of postmaster George W. Condiff, Jr. In the early 1960s, the former post office was joined to the circa 1940s building that had been constructed on its original location at the intersection of Patuxent Avenue and Charles Street. The 1940s building was reportedly used as a shore patrol headquarters by the United States Navy during World War II (1941-1945), and later as a barber shop by Clyde Dove. The 2004 renovations being undertaken at the time of the survey have hidden from view the alterations made in the connection of these two structures.

This one-story building overlooks the Patuxent River, with what is now its principal façade facing Patuxent Avenue on Solomons Island. The original section of the building, dating from circa 1900, is the former post office. It is a one-story front-gabled structure that is reminiscent of the Craftsman style of architecture because of subsequent alterations. Two bays wide, the building has paired 1/1 vinyl-sash replacement windows and a fifteen-light replacement door. The wide overhanging eaves are finished with a narrow ogee-molded cornice and exposed rafters. A porch with cast-iron filigree posts shelters the west elevation of the main block. A wood-frame carport with a roof deck was recently added to the southwestern corner of the main block. The northern section of the building, dating from the early 1940s, was constructed separately and joined to the former post office in the 1960s. It includes a one-story wood-frame structure with a side-gabled roof. The shallow pitched gable roof, finished a boxed cornice and overhanging eaves, pierces the ridge of the main block's front-gable roof. Both roofs are sheathed in asphalt shingles with vinyl-clad soffits and fascias. The secondary building has single, paired, and triple window openings with replacement 1/1 vinyl-sash and a fifteen-light vinyl door. The east elevation of the secondary structure has a one-story, shed-roofed porch that extends four bays along this elevation. It rests on a poured concrete foundation, and has replacement turned wood posts. All historic interior finishes related to the post office or the shore patrol headquarters are no longer extant.

Inventory No. CT-1012

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Fourth Post Office of Solomons Island
other	Ketcham House

2. Location

street and number	25 Charles Street	not for publication
city, town	Solomons	vicinity
county	Calvert	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Robert Tyler Development LLC				
street and number	135 W. Dares Beach Rd.			telephone	Unknown
city, town	Pr. Fredreick	state	MD	zip code	20678-3119

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse			tax map and parcel: 46A:89		
city, town	Pr. Frederick	liber	KPS 1980	folio	444

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
					Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
			<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
					Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
					1	

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1012

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SETTING

The modest building at 25 Charles Street is located on 11,499 square feet of land in Solomons Island. The property is located on the east side of the road, overlooking the mouth of the Patuxent River. The much-altered building is set on a slightly sloping site with stone steps on the east side along Charles Street. The Patuxent Avenue side of the building is set exceptionally close to the road. Grass surrounds the buildings, while mature trees trim the north side of the property.

PRIMARY RESOURCE

This one-story building overlooks the Patuxent River, with what is now its principal façade facing Patuxent Avenue on Solomons Island. The original section of the building, dating from circa 1900, is the former post office. It is a one-story front-gabled structure that is reminiscent of the Craftsman style of architecture because of subsequent alterations. Two bays wide, the building has paired 1/1 vinyl-sash replacement windows and a fifteen-light replacement door. The wide overhanging eaves are finished with a narrow ogee-molded cornice and exposed rafters. A porch with cast-iron filigree posts shelters the west elevation of the main block. A wood-frame carport with a roof deck was recently added to the southwestern corner of the main block. The northern section of the building, dating from the early 1940s, was constructed separately and joined to the former post office in the 1960s. It includes a one-story wood-frame structure with a side-gabled roof. The shallow pitched gable roof, finished a boxed cornice and overhanging eaves, pierces the ridge of the main block's front-gable roof. Both roofs are sheathed in asphalt shingles with vinyl-clad soffits and fascias. The secondary building has single, paired, and triple window openings with replacement 1/1 vinyl-sash and a fifteen-light vinyl door. The east elevation of the secondary structure has a one-story, shed-roofed porch that extends four bays along this elevation. It rests on a poured concrete foundation, and has replacement turned wood posts. All historic interior finishes related to the post office or the shore patrol headquarters are no longer extant.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1012

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates ca. 1900; 1913; 1940s

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates ca. 1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The original portion of the wood-frame building at 25 Charles Street was constructed circa 1900 as Solomons Island's fourth post office. Located on property associated with the Thomas Moore shipyard, the one-and-a-half-story post office was the first purpose-built post office facility erected in Solomons and provided mailboxes for rent on site. The two-bay-wide building, which had a one-story porch, was faced on the triangular intersection of Patuxent Avenue and Charles Street. In 1913, with the reconfiguration of the roads, the building was relocated to the south side of the property, with the façade oriented to Patuxent Avenue. The building was enlarged the following year to accommodate the growth of Solomons in the second decade of the twentieth century. It continued to serve as the primary post office for Solomons Island until 1958, following the retirement of postmaster George W. Condiff, Jr. In the early 1960s, the former post office was joined to the circa 1940s building that had been constructed on its original location at the intersection of Patuxent Avenue and Charles Street. The 1940s building was reportedly used as a shore patrol headquarters by the United States Navy during World War II (1941-1945), and later as a barber shop by Clyde Dove. In the latter part of the twentieth century, the building was used as a single-family residence and was commonly known as the Ketchum House. The 2004 renovations being undertaken at the time of the survey have hidden from view the alterations made in the connection of these two structures.(1)

A historic photograph of the post office in its original located is illustrated in Solomons Island & Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour by Richard J. Dodds. This image documents the building was two bays wide and three bays deep with weatherboard siding and a front-gabled roof. The first story of the façade was sheltered by a shed roof porch with steps and square posts. It was pierced by a single-leaf entry and double-hung, wood sash window with louvered shutters on the first story. A single double-hung, wood-sash window pierced the upper gable end. The east side elevation has three window opening. (see endnote 1)

ENDNOTES

(1) Richard J. Dodds, compiler, Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour, Solomons, MD: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995, #24.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1012

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.26

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Solomons Island

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The former post office is located at 25 Charles Street, Solomons, Calvert County, Maryland. The historic building is noted on Tax Map 46A, Parcel 89. It has been historically associated with Parcel 89 since the building's construction circa 1900.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Trieschmann, Architectural Historian

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date 11/5/2004

street and number 1121 5th Street NW

telephone (202) 393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

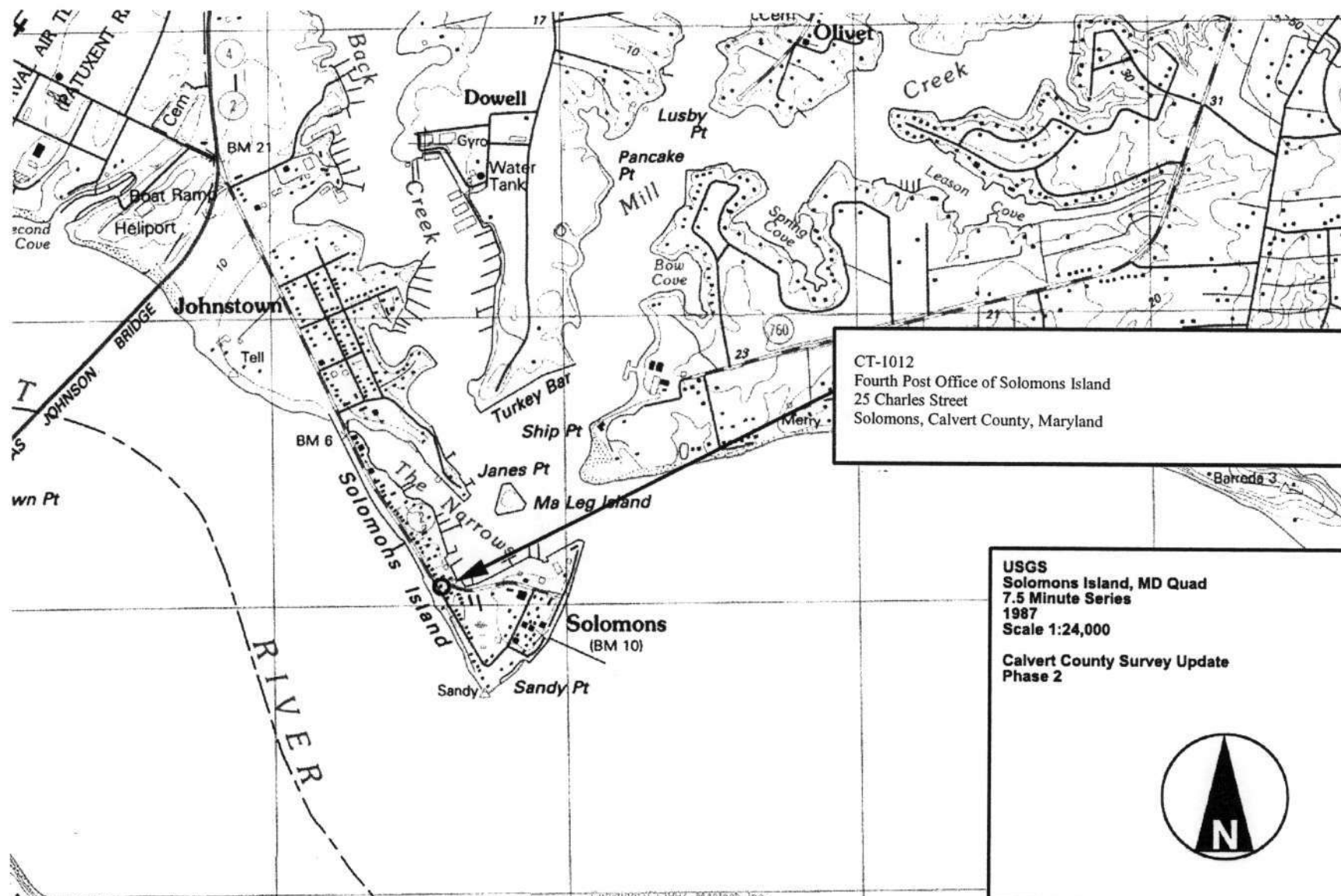
Inventory No. CT-1012

Name Fourth Post Office of Solomons Island

Continuation Sheet


Number 9 Page 1

Richard J. Dodds, compiler, Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour (Solomons, MD: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995) #24.



CT-1012
Fourth Post Office of Solomons Island
25 Charles Street
Solomons, Calvert County, Maryland

USGS
Solomons Island, MD Quad
7.5 Minute Series
1987
Scale 1:24,000
Calvert County Survey Update
Phase 2





CT-1012

FOURTH POST OFFICE OF SOLOMONS ISLAND, 25 CHARLES ST
Calvert county, MD

EHT Traceries

11/2003

MD SHPO

South corner

1 of 3



CT-1012

FOURTH POST OFFICE OF SOLOMONS ISLAND, 25 CHARLES ST
CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT Traceries

11/2003

MD SHPO

northwest corner

2 of 3



CT-1012

FOURTH POST OFFICE OF SOLOMONS ISLAND, 25 CHARLES ST
Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

11/2003

MD SHPO

east elevation

3 of 3

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ketcham House

2. Location

street & number Patuxent Avenue & Charles Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Solomons

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county

Calvert

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both
Public Acquisition
☐ in process
☐ being considered
☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture ☐ museum
☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ educational ☒ private residence
☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ government ☐ scientific
☐ industrial ☐ transportation
☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorteia Ketcham

street & number P.O. Box 335

telephone no.:

city, town Solomons

state and zip code MD 20688

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse

liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765)

folio

city, town Prince Frederick

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1012

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This complicated one-story framed and weatherboarded house faces southwest onto Patuxent Avenue near that street's intersection with Charles Street. It has been heavily altered, but its core appears to be a one-story framed and weatherboarded T-plan dwelling that dates from the turn of this century.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1012

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This is the site of Solomons' third post office.

From Solomons by Foot, Bicycle, or Boa.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1012

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Solomons Island, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Wellsorganization MHT/Calvert Dept. of Planningdate 9/30/86street & number Courthouse Annex, Main Streettelephone (301) 535-2348city or town Prince Frederickstate Maryland 20678

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return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



SOLOMONS
CT-101a (p. 89) CALVERT COUNTY MAPS #44, 46
ENLARGEMENT 2 OF 2



Ketcham House, CT-1012

Solomons

Calvert County, Maryland

Camille Wells

9/86

MHT

1/1